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Cirtanian

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Progress 96%

Stats	
Nouns	100%
Verbs	100%
Adjectives	100%
Syntax	100%
Words	30 of 1500

Cirtanian
Cirtaugnan Χιρταυνιαν

Type
Fusional

Alignment	
Nom-Acc	
Head direction	
Initial	
Tonal	
No	
Declensions	
Yes	
Conjugations	
Yes	
Genders	
No	
Nouns decline according to...	
Case	**Number**
Definiteness	**Gender**
Verbs conjugate according to...	
Voice	**Mood**
Person	**Number**
Tense	**Aspect**

General information

Cirtanian, known natively as Cirtaugnan/Χιρταυνιαν <ʃir'tawɲ.ans> or Leng Cirtaugnan/Λενγ Χιρταυνιαν ('leŋg ʃirt'aw.ɲan) is a Romance language native to the island of Cirtania east of Italy in the Mediterranean sea. It split off from late Classical/ early Vulgar Latin and retains some aspects of Latin lost in other languages such as nouns that decline to case in number (though the ablative, dative and genitive cases merged, and the fourth and fifth declensions merged with the second and third) Due to its proximity to Greece, it picked up several Greek loanwords as well as phonological and grammatical influences. There is even a way of writing the language in the Attic alphabet used mainly in Greece and taught in most schools in Cirtania, though the Latin system is more common and will be used primarily in this grammar.

Phonology

Consonants

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolo-Palatal	Palatal	Velar
Nasal	m (μ)		n (ν)		ɲ (gn) (ν)	
Plosive	p, b (π, β)	t, d (τ, δ)				k, g (c/ch, g/gh) (κ, γ)
Affricate			ts, dz (z) (τσ, δσ)			ks (x)(ξ), gz (x)(ξ)
Fricative	f, v (φ, υ)		s (σ)	ʃ, ʒ (c, g) (χ, ζ)		
Tap/Trill			ɾ/r (r) (ρ)			
Glide	w (u) (υ)				j (i) (ι)	
Lateral			l (λ)		ʎ (gl) (λ)	

Some notes about the orthography

- The rule about c and g is similar Italian: c and g are pronounced <k> and <g> except before i, e and ă. Ch and gh are variants of c and g used to maintain the hard pronunciation even before i, e and ă. The Attic variant instead uses the separate letters χ and ζ to represent the soft pronunciation.

- Z is pronounced as ts if it derives from a t in Latin (i.e. nātiō > nauziu <'naw.tsi.u>) and dz if it derives from a d (persuādeō > persuauziu <peɾ'swaw.dzi.u>
- X is a similar story doctus > dox <'doks>, vagus > vax <'vagz>. However, when the x is followed by a soft c, it is pronounced kʃ.
- I and u represent <j> and <w> before another vowel.
- The letter h is always silent and is not even represented in the Attic variant.
- N and l have palatal allophones when followed by an unstressed front vowel and another vowel. In the Latin writing system, the Italian convention of gn and gl is used, whereas no special spelling is used in Greek since a similar allophony already exists in Greek (it is written νι or λι, hence magno is written in Greek μανιο and Italglia is written Ιταλια)
- ɾ and r are used interchangeably.

Vowels

	Front	Near-front	Middle	Near-back	Back
Close	i ɪ				u ʊ
Near-close					
Close-mid	e ɛ		ə (ă) (ŋ)		o o
Open-mid					
Open				a ɑ	

Greek borrowings usually use Greek-resembling spellings in the Attic variant even when they conflict with how Cirtanian is typically spelled. Thus anoits (stupid) is spelled ανοητς instead of ανοιτς, although it is not uncommon for native speakers to misspell these words.

Sound Changes

Cirtanian sound changes happened in four stages. The first were unique to Cirtanian and define it from other Romance languages. The second were the basic changes of Vulgar Latin (of which only most occurred in Cirtanian, some sound changes did not manifest except in Romance borrowings.) Then, after the split of the Roman Empire, a series of Hellenistic sound changes occurred. Finally, a second series of Romance sound changes occurred due to influence from Italy.

Original Cirtanian Changes (100 BC - 100 AD)

Short final unstressed vowels dropped initially and finally unless a consonant other than -s follows it

> bonus (good) > bons (later > buons)

Long vowels diphthongize, shift place, or simply remain the same.

- lātus (wide) > lauz
- cēlō (hide) > cilu
- rōmānus (Roman) > rumauns (urban, civilized)
- crūdelis (rude, evil) > crodels
- īre (to go) > ir

Final plosives become affricates (except in feminine nouns/adjectives)

- et (and) > ez > es (de-affrication is irregular)
- per hoc (for this reason) > peróc (however, but) > peróx
- comēta (comet) > comit

Double vowels simplify

- tuus (your) > tos (note, the short u > o was because of analogy with tū > to, not a regular sound change.)
- vacuus (empty) > vacus > vax (ignorant)

It was also at this time that the genitive and ablative cases were lost, leaving nominative, accusative, and dative.

Vulgar Latin Changes (0 AD - 200 AD)

Diphthongs become monophthongs

- caelum (sky) > celo
- deinde (then) > denz
- deiciō (throw down) > deciu (defeat)
- laus (praise) > los

E turns into i before another vowel and after a lenitable consonant.

> persuādeō (persuade) > persauziu
>
> iāceō (throw) > giaciu

E before a vowel elsewhere disappears

habeō > aveu > avu

Word-final M drops

- templum > tempio (note the u > o resulted from analogy with the Greek neuter, not any sound change.)
- quam > quă

C and g palalize after i and e.

- circum > circo ('tʃir.co)
- gēns (tribe) > gins ('dʒins)

Aspirates lose their aspiration (and ph > f)

- theatrum (theater) > tatro
- alphabētum (alphabet) > alfabito

Hellenist Sound Changes (285 AD- 1200 AD)

Unstressed vowels with no onset drop initially, and an m, n or l after the dropped vowel disappears and voices the following consonant.

- angustus (narrow) > gusz (often pronounced <gus:> rather than <gusts>)
- imperium (empire) > berio (nation)

Sc and St metathesize at the beginning of a word (except sc doesn't metathesize before i or e)

- stō (stand) > zu
- σκιά (shadow) > xiă
- sciō (know) > ciu (study)

Consonants degeminate

callidus > caliz

.Palatals de-affricate

- circo ('tʃir.co) > circo ('ʃir.co)
- gins ('dʒins) > gins ('ʒins)

During this period the dative case was reinterpreted as genitive, paralleling Greek's declension system.

Italic Sound Changes (1096 AD - present)

L becomes i after a fricative or plosive

- plūs (more) > pió
- flōs (flower) > fiús

E and o diphthongize in stressed open syllables

- tepidus (lukewarm) > tiepiz (indifferent)
- novus (new) > nuovs ('nwovz)

I and u lower in stressed closed syllables (except in monosyllabic words)

victus (defeated) > vecz

- iungō (join) > giongu
- in (in) > in

B becomes v intervocallically

- habeō (have) > avu
- caballus (horse) > cavals

Grammar

Nouns and Adjectives

As stated previously, nouns decline in two major groups to four cases and two numbers. Below are some examples of declined nouns and adjectives.

Masculine

Standard Declension (nom sing -s)

Buons- good	Singular	Plural
NOM	buons	buoni
ACC	buono	buonus
GEN	buonu	buonis

Abnormal Declension (nom sing irregular)

Fiús- flower	Singular	Plural
NOM	fiús	fiúris
ACC	fiúră	fiúris
GEN	fiúri	fiúrus

Former second declension nouns (called masculi normali) are pretty much the same as Latin plus sound change. Former third declension nouns with a nominative singular ending of -is, -(C)s, -x, or -or became second declension (called masculi normali). Other third declension nouns retained their paradigm, and are called masculi gonditi.

Feminine

Standard Declension (nom sing null)

Buon- good	Singular	Plural
NOM	buon	buone
ACC	buonă	buonas
GEN	boune	buonis

Abnormal Declension (nom sing irregular)

Aucziu action	Singular	Plural
NOM	aucziu	aucziunis
ACC	aucziună	aucziunis
GEN	aucziune	aucziunus

Former first declension nouns (called feminine normale) are also the same as Latin plus sound change. Former third declension nouns (feminine gondite) again retain a paradigm closer to the Latin third (none of them merged with any other declensions in the feminine gender.)

Neuter

Standard Declension (nom sing -o)

Bono- good	Singular	Plural
NOM	bono	bonă
ACC	bono	bonă

GEN	bonu	bonis

Abnormal Declension (nom sing irregular)

Temps- time	Singular	Plural
NOM	temps	temporă
ACC	temps	temporă
GEN	tempori	temporus

Again, both declensions remain mostly the same. Second declension nouns are called neutră normală and third neutră gondită.

As should be expected, adjectives must agree with the nouns they modify in number, gender and case. Thus large flower would be fiús magnăs (a schwa is inserted between gn or gli and -s), large girl would be corít magn, and large nation would be berio magno.

Adjective Degrees

- The positive is the citation form (shocking!)
- The comparative is formed with pió (more, derived from plūs) plus the positive forms
- The superlative is formed with -issims added to the fem. nom. sing, e.g. liez (happy, from laetus) > lietissims (happiest.) Words ending with -ls and -r add -ims instead (facils (easy, from facilis) > facilims, liber (free, from līber) > liberims)

Articles and Prepositions

Latin prepositions that governed the ablative or genitive case now govern the dative case, and Latin prepositions that governed the accusative case still govern that case, with a few exceptions and irregularities. A few common prepositions:

in (+ABL in, inside, +ACC in, into) > in (+GEN in, inside, +ACC in, into)

ēx (+ABL out of, outside of) > es (+GEN outside of, +ACC (moving) out of)

dē (+ABL down from, about) > di (+GEN about, +ACC down from)

super (+ACC beyond) > sur

ad (+ACC to) > a

Like most other Romance languages, Cirtanian developed its definite article from Latin ille/illa/illud. The definite article, for the most part, is similar to that of Italian. It is used before all proper nouns including people (except when directly addressing those people) (thus il Efrup and sil Marx, not Efrup or Marx) and to form a generic sense of a group or category (lă teknă son filică- babies are happy.) Unlike Italian or Spanish, Cirtanian articles do not change depending on the onset (or lack thereof) of the next word.

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative Sing	sil	il	lo
Accusative Sing	lo	lă	lo
Genitive Sing	lu	le	lu
Nominative Plural	li	le	lă
Accusative Plural	les	lăs	lă
Genitive Plural	lis	lis	lis

Similar to Italian, Cirtanian definite article can contract with some prepositions.

	M sing	F sing	N sing	M pl	F pl	N pl
in + GEN	nul	nal	nul	nis	nis	nis

in + ACC	nol	năl	nol	nus	năs	nă
es + GEN	sul	sal	sul	sis	sis	sis
es + ACC	sol	săl	sol	sus	săs	să
di + GEN	dul	dal	dul	dis	dis	dis
di + ACC	dol	dăl	dol	dus	dăs	dă
sur	ciul	cial	ciul	cis	cis	cis
a	as	al	alo	alis	alis	alis

There's also an indefinite article, but (like Italian) it doesn't contract with prepositions.

	Masculine	**Feminine**	**Neuter**
Nominative Sing	us	un	uno
Accusative Sing	uno	ună	uno
dative Sing	unu	une	unu
Nominative Plural	uni	une	ună
Accusative Plural	unus	unăs	ună
dative Plural	unis	unis	unis

Pronouns

First person

Derived from egō/nos

	Singular	**Plural**
NOM	giu	nus
ACC	mi	nus
GEN	me	nuis

Second person

Derived from tū/vōs

	Singular	**Plural**
NOM	to	vus
ACC	ti	vus
GEN	te	vuis

Third Person

Less worn-down form of ille, illa, illud

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative Sing	ile	il	ilo
Accusative Sing	ilo	ilă	ilo
Genitive Sing	ili	ili	ili
Nominative Plural	ili	ile	ilă
Accusative Plural	ilus	ilăs	ilă
Genitive Plural	ilis	ilis	ilis

Proximal Demonstrative

Borrowed from Italian ecco.

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative Sing	ex	ec	eco
Accusative Sing	eco	ecă	eco
Genitive Sing	eci/ecu	eci/ece	eci/ecu
Nominative Plural	eci	ece	ecă
Accusative Plural	ecus	ecăs	ecă
Genitive Plural	ecis	ecis	ecis

Distal Demonstrative

Derived from ipse, ipsa, ipsud

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative Sing	eps	ep	epso
Accusative Sing	epso	epsă	epso
Genitive Sing	epsi/epsu	epsi/epse	epsi/epsu
Nominative Plural	epsi	epse	epsă
Accusative Plural	epsus	epsăs	epsă
Genitive Plural	epsis	epsis	espis

When two forms are given, the first form is older and more academic whereas the second is quickly becoming more popular in colloquial speech.

Number

Cardinal	Ordinal	Multiplier
us/un/uno	prims	senguls
du	seconz	dupiăs

tris	tirzs	tripiăs
quator	quarz	quadrupiăs
chenche	chinz	chentupiăs
six	sexz	sextupiăs
septe	septims	septupiăs
octu	octauvs	
nuove	nuns	
diece	diecims	diecupiăs
undice	undicims	
dudice	dudicims	
tridice	tridicims	
quatordice	quatordicims	
chendici	chendicims	
sidice	sidicims	
diciasepte	diciaseptims	
dicioctu	dicioctims	
dicianuove	dicianuns	
venti	ventisims	
ventius/un/uno	ventiprims	
trenta	trentisims	
quaranta	quarantisims	
chenquanta	chenquantisims	
sexanta	sexantisims	
septanta	septantisims	
octanta	octantisms	
nuovanta	nuovantisims	
cento	centisims	
ducento	ducentisims	
mile	milesims	
dumile	dumilesims	
migliu	migliunisims	
dumigliu	dumigliunisims	

Verbs

The conlang wikia is not friendly to porting over massive tables, and I don't feel like rewriting all of my conjugation paradigms in friendlier wikitables, so go here to see the charts.

Tense

Cirtanian's unique paradigm for tense developed during the Vulgar Latin period and into the Hellenistic period.

- The present tense is largely Latin with sound change, except for the second and third person singular which were borrowed from Italian.
- The preterite is uniquely conservative from the Latin perfect, lacking the innovations other romance languages needed in order to make it comprehensible.
- The perfect, pluperfect, and future perfect all derive from forms of aver or eser (depending on the verb) plus the past participle.
- The future tenses are formed by the present subjunctive (formed by ablaut similar to Latin, i.e. a > e, e > ea and i > a) plus worn away forms of Latin īre (to go) for the imminent future and velle (to want) for the simple future.

NB: For the future tenses and the perfect tenses, the auxiliary fused with the main verb. Thus "I have spoken" is avumilaz, not avu milaz, and he will run is "vucura" not "vu cura."

Syntax

Word order is freer than other Romance languages, but the general scheme is SVO. Also, adjectives come after the noun they describe (except for adjectives of quantity or size, which usually come before), although articles and demonstratives always come before their noun.